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## BOOK REVIEWS.

PSYCHOPATHIA SEXUALIS, with especial reference to Contrary Sexual Instinct: A Medico-Legal Study. By DR. R. VON KRAFFT-EBING, Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology, University of Vienna. Authorized Translation of the Seventh Enlarged and Revised German Edition. By CHARLES GILBERT CHADDOCK, M.D., Professor of Nervous and Mental Diseases, Marion Sims College of Medicine, St. Louis; Fellow of the Chicago Academy of Medicine, etc. Philadelphia and London: The F. A. Davis Co., Publishers, 1892.

We have read this book with unusual interest, both on account of the eminence of the learned author and the nature of the subject-matter, which, in this country, may be said to be practically *terra incognita* to the great majority of the legal profession. One branch of the subject has been brought prominently before the public in the case of the State of Tennessee *v.* Alice Mitchell, recently tried for murder in Memphis, Tenn. The frequent and atrocious Whitechapel murders have also brought another side of the subject prominently before the English-speaking races; but aside from these cases, which are very imperfectly understood by other than the medical profession, the crimes and the mental states of the nature described in this volume, though probably not so infrequent as one might suppose in this country, have thus far attracted little attention, in fact, practically no attention, at the hands of the ordinary practitioner of law. This book, then, must prove of especially great value in cases of sexual perversion hereafter coming before the courts for investigation.

The purpose of the treatise, as described by the learned author, "is a description of the pathological manifestations of the sexual life, and an attempt to refer them to their underlying conditions."

The work is divided into five parts. Part I treats of the Psychology of the Sexual Life; Part II, Physiology; Part III, General Pathology; Part IV, Special Pathology; and Part V, Pathological Sexuality in its Legal Aspect. It is enriched with numerous illustrative cases, collated from all accessible sources with an industry that is in refreshing contrast with some recent works on legal medicine which might be mentioned. The work of American authors has received such notice as it deserves, and from an author's standpoint nothing seems to have been neglected.

The spirit of the work may be better understood from the following quotations from the preface:

"The importance of the subject for the welfare of society, especially financially, demands that it should be examined scientifically. . . . He who makes the psychopathology of sexual life the object of scientific study sees himself placed on the dark side of human life and misery, in the shadows of which the god-like creations of the poet [describing the psychology of love] become hideous works, and morals and aesthetics seem out of place in 'the image of God.' It is the sad province of medicine, and especially psychiatry, to constantly regard the reverse side of life—human weakness and misery."

"Perhaps in this difficult calling some consolation may be gained and extended to the moralist if it be possible to refer to morbid conditions much that offends ethical and aesthetic feeling. Thus medicine undertakes to save the honor of mankind before the court of morality, and individuals from judges and their fellowmen. The duty and right of medical science in these studies belong to it by reason of the high aim of all human inquiry after truth."

The translator of this edition is entitled to great credit for having really transferred the work of the author into *good English*—by no means an easy task. In reading the work it seems as if it had originally been written in English.

The typographical execution of the book is excellent, and having read the book entirely through we heartily commend it to all who wish to extend the scope of their knowledge in legal medicine.

MARSHALL D. EWELL, M.D.

*Chicago, Jan. 17, 1893.*

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AMERICAN RAILROAD AND CORPORATION REPORTS. Being a Collection of Current Decisions of the Courts of Last Resort in the United States Pertaining to the Law of Railroads, Private and Municipal Corporations, etc. Edited and Annotated by JOHN LEWIS. Vol. V. Chicago: E. B. Meyers & Co., 1892.

The fourth volume of this valuable publication was reviewed in the August number (1892) of the AMERICAN LAW REGISTER AND REVIEW, and at that time we said of the volume that it was on the whole well worth attentive perusal, and that to "the lawyer with a brief to write it will prove only less useful than to the student who desires to keep abreast of the development of corporation law." A careful examination of the volume before us enables us to repeat these words of praise. The general make-up of the volume resembles that of its predecessors; and the selection of cases is equally as good. Among them Mr. LEWIS has given *Budd v. New York*, the well-known decision which called forth from Mr. R. C. McMURTRIE's pen the article which appeared in the January number (1893), of the AMERICAN LAW REGISTER AND REVIEW, entitled, "A New Canon of Constitutional Interpretation." A peculiar interest attaches to these decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States with respect to which the Court is divided, and *Budd v. New York* is no exception to the rule in view of the dissent of Mr. Justice BREWER, Mr. Justice FIELD, and Mr. Justice BROWN. Mr. LEWIS, indeed, points out that this is not strictly a railroad or corporation case, but he says in a note upon it that it deals "almost wholly with railroad and corporation decisions, and determines questions of vital importance to all railroads and corporations. The business to which the case relates is also one which is largely, if not mostly, in the hands of corporations. We deem this a sufficient justification, if any is needed, for including the case in these reports."

Among the other cases of interest which the volume contains we note the decision of the Supreme Court of Iowa in *Union Building Association v. Rockford Insurance Co.* Where an insurance policy was issued with a provision that the loss, if any, should be paid to the mortgagee of